

Ken Berry, Star of ‘F Troop’ and ‘Mama’s Family,’ Dies at 85

By Anita Gates

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Ken Berry, the boyish television actor who played nice guys with affable attitudes and a wide range of I.Q.s on three popular sitcoms between 1965 and 1990, died on Saturday in Burbank, Calif. He was 85.

The death was confirmed by a spokeswoman at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, The Associated Press said.

Mr. Berry was a handsome, accident-prone 1860s Army captain who got along remarkably well with his Native American neighbors in the farcical “F Troop” (1965-67); a widowed North Carolina farmer with a small son and no housekeeping skills, replacing Andy Griffith when “The Andy Griffith Show” evolved into “Mayberry R.F.D.” (1968-71); and a hapless Southern husband and son in “Mama’s Family” (1983-84, 1986-90), a successful spinoff from “The Carol Burnett Show.”

In a 2012 Archive of American Television interview, Mr. Berry said that his time on “F Troop” had been his most cherished, partly because it was his first starring television role and partly because he was allowed to contribute to the character’s comic persona.

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